

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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42

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 SCA-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 INR-07 CIAE-00 /036 W

----- 061523

P R 091133Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7026

INFO AMCONSUL SONGKLA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 33419

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (BURNS, DOUGLAS M.)

SUBJ: W/W DISAPPEARANCE OF AMCIT

1. DOUGLAS M. BURNS, M.D., A 10 YEAR RESIDENT OF THAILAND, A NATURALIST AND CONSERVATIONIST BY AVOCATION IS OVERDUE FROM A PLANNED 3 WEEK TREK THROUGH THE KLONG NAKA WILDLIFE PRESERVE IN RANONG AND SURAT THANI PROVINCES. BURNS LEFT POINT OF DEPARTURE ON NOVEMBER 8 AND PLANNED TO FINISH TRIP O/A NOVEMBER 24. WIFE OF BURNS INFORMED EMBASSY OF DISAPPEARANCE ON DECEMBER 3. AS BURNS WAS EXPERIENCED HIKER AND NATURALIST AND RAINS IN AREA HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY, IT WAS SPECULATED THAT BURNS WAS DELAYED. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY ALERTED AMCONSUL SONGKLA AND ASKED THAT POST TO ALERT AUTHORITIES. NOTE AND LETTER WERE DISPATCHED TO MFA AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE GIVING PARTICULARS OF BURNS AND HIS INTENDED ROUTE, AND ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE IN SEARCH. AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED MINISTER OF INTERIOR TO ENCOURAGE A VIGOROUS SEARCH.

2. AS A RESULT OF MINISTER SAMAK'S INTERVENTIONS, POLICE MG UDOM RAKSAPHOLDEJ, ASSISTANT COMMANDER OF BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) TO COORDINATE SEARCH EFFORTS. GENERAL UDOM HAS GONE TO SEARCH AREA TO SET UP HQTRS. AT RANONG. UDOM PLANS TO USE AVAILABLE AIRCRAFT IN AREA (2 HELICOPTERS AND PORTER) TO LEAP-FROG BURNS' ROUTE BEFORE PUTTING IN GROUND PARTIES.

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3. DATT HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED SEPARATELY BY
COMMANDER OF RTA 5TH DIVISION MAJOR GENERAL YUTHASAK
THAT HE WILL MAKE HIS ASSETS AVAILABLE IF NEEDED.

4. STORY HAS MADE LOCAL PRESS AND BEEN PICKED UP BY
WIRE SERVICES WHICH SPECULATE THAT BURNS COULD HAVE
BEEN KIDNAPPED FOR RANSOM BY LOCAL BANDITS OR PICKED
UP BY CT ELEMENTS. ON BASIS OF THIS MRS. BURNS
HAS CONTACTED PARENTS OF DR. BURNS IN OREGON TO
ALERT THEM. MRS. BURNS HAS LEFT BRIEFING OF PRESS
TO EMBASSY AND HAS INDICATED SHE DOES NOT DESIRE
TO SEE THE PRESS.

5. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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